

**WESTERN NEWS**

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## **ASK EPA !!**

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **about Asbestos and EPA's Investigation**

**Q: What will Libby Area Technical Assistance Group (LATAG) board members be meeting with EPA about in Denver?**

**A: EPA has invited four members of the LATAG Board to travel to Denver for a two-day training session focused on basic issues of science and risk assessment. The Board will also fund their Technical Advisor to attend the session. In addition to TAG representatives, EPA has also invited the Lincoln County Sanitarian. The training will occur on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Topics to be covered in the training include:**

- **Superfund cleanup process**
- **sampling considerations**
- **analytical methods used for asbestos**
- **fundamentals of risk assessment**
- **current state of research in asbestos analysis, risk and health effects**
- **rationale for cleanup and clearance levels**
- **cleanup, contracting and budget processes**

**EPA has granted funding to the LATAG. The Board uses this funding to hire an independent technical advisor to interpret the scientific documents related to EPA's cleanup of asbestos contaminated vermiculite in Libby. LATAG, in turn, provides this technical information about the cleanup to the public. The group is presently applying for their second grant.**

**EPA believes that it is important for the Board to understand the science and processes that EPA must rely on. A better understanding of EPA's options, limitations and decisions can lead to more productive discussions of the important issues facing the community.**

**If you have technical questions about the Asbestos cleanup in Libby, please feel free to call a TAG Board member so that they are aware of your interests. You may also call EPA directly at any time.**

**For more information, call toll free:**

**Wendy Thomi at 1-866-457-2690, ext. 5037 or**

**EPA Information Center at 293-6194**